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Items 46, 52 (a), 54 (e), 55 (b) and 106 of the preliminary list*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Sustainable development: Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Globalization and interdependence: Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Groups of countries in special situations: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you of an event of historic significance — the inauguration of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) main pipeline for the export of crude oil — which will take place on 13 July 2006 in Ceyhan, Turkey.

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline has been characterized as one of the major projects of our century. Since its inception, this project has been synonymous with the enhancement of cooperation for the future prosperity, economic and social well-being of the countries and peoples of the region. The vision, wisdom and determination of the leaders of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey back in 1994 to develop an economically viable project for the secure and environment-friendly

* A/61/50 and Corr.1.

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transportation of the hydrocarbon reserves of the Caspian basin to Western markets have proven their value. It goes without saying that the support of all our partners has been vital for the realization of this project. Today, we are at the dawn of a new era where we witness world-scale oil and gas projects in the region.

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline runs 1,100 miles and will carry 1 million barrels per day from the Caspian Sea, which contains the world's third-largest oil and gas reserves, to the Ceyhan export terminal on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. In early June, the first tanker was filled with Azerbaijani oil flowing through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and set sail for world markets. The pipeline constitutes a major milestone in the achievement of the "East-West Energy Corridor", which will connect the South Caucasus and Central Asia to Western markets through Turkey. The pipeline will contribute to the diversification of global energy supply, make its contribution towards meeting the world's rising energy demands and complement global efforts aimed at achieving the relevant Millennium Development Goals. Later this year, the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipeline will also become operational.

The recent joining of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan project is also of great significance and will increase its outreach and output. The project is fostering cooperation between landlocked States, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, on the one hand, and transit States, Georgia and Turkey, on the other.

The goals and objectives of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline are not confined to the expansion of energy production capacity and new energy transport infrastructure but also relate to collaboration among countries and peoples aimed at promoting peace, stability, development and mutual prosperity.

Hence, as of today, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline has become operational in successfully carrying out its multidimensional mission.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda items 46, 52 (a), 54 (e), 55 (b) and 106.

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